

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended, and claim 29 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 12, 16-20 and 26-29 are pending, and claims 2-3, 6, 11, 13-15 and 21-25 have been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 16-20.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano (US 4,823,915) in view of Takizawa, et al (EP 1 035 008) and Keysor (US 2,892,624). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the biasing device comprises a coil spring comprising a plurality of coils, that the cable sleeve includes a spring sleeve that forms an annular space with itself dimensioned to receive a plurality of complete coils of the spring therein, and that a plurality of complete coils of the spring are disposed in the annular space. The vertical sides (36, 38) of the annular space (30) in the Keysor device extend below the inner surface (32) of the end plate (28) for a vertical distance equal to only one-half of the spring stock diameter (d) as stated at column 2, lines 45-48, so the annular space could accommodate at most one coil, but not even a complete coil. The annular space in the presently claimed device helps to support the spring in the axial direction as the spring is compressed, and it increases the support as the spring is compressed. None of the cited references disclose or suggest such structural features with the corresponding advantages.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Takizawa, et al, Keysor and Toyomoto (US 4,066,147). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Takizawa, et al, Keysor and Deligny (US 4,693,137). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reason noted above.

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Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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